

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MT  
SUBJECT: MEDITERRANEAN SOCIALIST MEETING IN MALTA

REF: MADRID 2593, (NOTAL); 76 MADRID 9115, (NOTAL)

1. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD HERE ON APRIL 16 BY  
AHMED SHAHATI, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE "PERMANENT  
SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE OF MEDITERRANEAN SOCIALIST  
PARTIES AND MOVEMENTS," IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE  
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SECOND MEETING OF THIS GROUP WILL TAKE PLACE IN MALTA  
JUNE 20-25. THE FIRST MEETING WAS HELD IN BARCELONA  
NOVEMBER 26-28, 1976 (SEE REFTELS).

2. GENERAL SECRETARY SHAHATI DESCRIBED THE FORTHCOMING  
CONFERENCE AS "AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST  
STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE REGION TO LIBERATE THE

MEDITERRANEAN FROM THE MILITARY PRESENCE OF THE TWO SUPERPOWERS."

3. HE ANNOUNCED THAT AFTER FIVE PLANNING SESSIONS AT THE SECRETARIAT HEADQUARTERS IN TRIPOLI, IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO INVITE TO THE MALTA MEETING "SOCIALIST PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS FROM ALL OVER THE MEDITERRANEAN," AS WELL AS THE COMMUNIST PARTIES OF FRANCE, ITALY AND SPAIN, "LIBERATION MOVEMENTS," AND A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING THE UNITED NATIONS, THE ARAB LEAGUE, AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY.

4. THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING WILL BE THE FOLLOWING:

" -- PROGRESSIVE SOCIALISM: ITS CONCEPTS AND IDEAS;

-- SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLE: LIBERATING THE MEDITERRANEAN FROM FOREIGN MILITARY PRESENCE, BASES AND FLEETS;

-- PEACE AND SECURITY: POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL CO-OPERATION AMONG THE PEOPLE OF THE REGION, EXTENDING TO SECURITY AND DEFENSE;

-- ACTIVE SOLIDARITY: TO STRENGTHEN THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND THE SOCIALIST FORCES OF THE WORLD AGAINST IMPERIALISM, ZIONISM, FASCISM, AND REACTIONARY CONSPIRACIES."

5. IN CONCLUSION, GENERAL SECRETARY SHAHATI SAID IT WAS SIGNIFICANT THAT THIS CONFERENCE WOULD BE HELD IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MALTA "AT A TIME WHEN THE MALTESE PEOPLE ARE WAGING THE FINAL STRUGGLE FOR COMPLETE NATIONAL LIBERATION, INDEPENDENCE AND NON-ALIGNMENT," AND THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE A "SYMBOL OF THE SOLIDARITY OF ALL THE PROGRESSIVE PEOPLE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN TOWARD THE FRATERNAL MALTESE PEOPLE."

6. COMMENT: THE CONFERENCE AT THIS STAGE HAS ALL OF THE EARMARKS OF A QADHAFI-FINANCED PROPAGANDA EXERCISE AIMED LARGELY AGAINST ISRAEL (AND PERHAPS THE U.S. AS WELL), AIDED AND ABETTED BY MALTESE PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF'S LOVE OF PUBLICITY. THE PRO-MINTOFF MALTA NEWS (PUBLISHED BY THE MALTESE GENERAL WORKERS UNION) CLAIMS THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE A "MEDITERRANEAN SOCIALIST SUMMIT" ATTENDED BY "YASSER ARAFAT OF THE PLO, COLONEL QADHAFI OF LIBYA, GEORGE PAPANDREON OF GREECE, BETTINO CRAXI OF ITALY, FRANCOIS MITTERAND OF FRANCE, DIEGO CALVAN OF SPAIN, LYSERIDES OF CYPRUS AND OTHERS." WE ARE SKEPTICAL THAT ATTENDANCE WILL BE AT THIS LEVEL.

HOWEVER, MINTOFF'S MALTA LABOR PARTY STALWARTS  
ARE STARTING TO BEAT THE PUBLICITY DRUMS TO MAKE IT  
AS BIG AN AFFAIR AS POSSIBLE, AND THEY HAVE ALREADY  
ANNOUNCED A "PLANNED" MASS RALLY TO BE ADDRESSED BY  
MINTOFF, QADHAFI AND ARAFAT WHILE THE CONFERENCE IS IN SESSION.  
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## Message Attributes

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